

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4202
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12961

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR EC

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PEPR IT SZ
SUBJECT: VISIT TO ITALY OF SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SWISS FOREIGN MINISTER AUBERT PAID THREE-DAY VISIT TO ITALY
JULY 10-12. DURING HIS STAY HE MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FOR-
LANI AND WAS FIRST FOREIGN VISITOR TO BE RECEIVED BY NEWLY-
ELECTED PRESIDENT PERTINI. IN JULY 13 BRIEFING ON VISIT, MFA
OFFICIAL SAID THAT FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED:

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2. SWISS FOREIGN POLICY: AUBERT DESCRIBED GREATER ROLE
SWITZERLAND INTENDS TO PLAY IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. SWISS
WILL FOCUS THEIR EFFORTS IN THREE FORUMS: CSCE, COUNCIL OF
EUROPE, AND UNITED NATIONS. AUBERT EXPRESSED SOME
UNCERTAINTY, HOWEVER, ABOUT WHETHER SWISS PUBLIC WOULD
APPROVE MEMBERSHIP IN UN. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID SWISS
NOW FEEL THAT THEY CANNOT REMAIN SO ISOLATED FROM WORLD

EVENT. (MFA OFFICIAL NOTED THAT, ACCORDING TO WEST GERMANS, AUBERT RECENTLY DESCRIBED SWITZERLAND AS "SECOND MILITARY POWER IN WESTERN EUROPE," AFTER FRG).

3. GREEK AND TURKEY: IN CONTEXT OF GREATER SWISS INTEREST IN OTHER AREAS, AUBERT WANTED TO DISCUSS GREEK-TURKISH RELATIONS IN SOME DETAIL. BASED ON HIS OBSERVATIONS OF BEHAVIOUR OF GREEK AND TURKS AT COUNCIL OF EUROPE MEETINGS, AUBERT EXPRESSED PESSIMISM ABOUT EARLY IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR RELATIONS BUT WAS HOPEFUL ABOUT FACT THAT RECENT GREEK-TURKISH MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE AT SUB-CABINET LEVEL AND THAT ANOTHER MEETING HAS BEEN SCHEDULED.

4. MIDDLE EAST: AUBERT TOLD ITALIANS, IN THEIR CONSIDER REFLECTION OF AUSTRALIAN CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S VIEWS, THAT HE BELIEVES THAT IF LABOR PARTY RETURNS TO POWER IN ISRAEL, REAL PROGRESS CAN BE MADE IN MIDDLE EAST. FORLANI RESPONDED THAT HE HAD FOUND LITTLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ALLON BEFORE AND DAYAN NOW IN THEIR VIEWS OF THE CRUCIAL QUESTION TO BE RESOLVED--THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS--AND THAT HE THUS DID NOT EXPECT GREAT CHANGES FROM ANY LABOR-LED GOVERNMENT.

5. EC ENLARGEMENT: AUBERT EXPRESSED SWISS PREOCCUPATION WITH IDEAS OF EC ENLARGEMENTS TO INCLUDE GREECE, PORTUGAL
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AND SPAIN. NOT ONLY ARE SWISS WORRIED ABOUT LIKELY EFFECTS ON THEIR TRADE AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS, BUT THEY ARE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT COORDINATION OF FOREIGN POLICY OF TWELVE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE THEY PERCEIVE THE COORDINATION TAKING PLACE UNDER DOMINATION OF THE LARGER MEMBERS. FORLANI POINTED TO DIFFICULTIES EVEN TODAY IN REACHING COMMON POSITIONS AND TO FACT THAT LARGER MEMBERS, SPECIFICALLY FRANCE AND BRITAIN, ARE MOST DIFFICULT TO BRING INTO LINE ON FOREIGN POLICY QUESTIONS.

6. BILATERAL RELATIONS: THE MAJOR BILATERAL PROBLEMS DISCUSSED INVOLVE ITALIAN NATIONALS IN SWITZERLAND. ITALIANS ASKED THAT SWISS GUARANTEE JOBS FOR SEASONAL WORKERS, THAT THEY EXTEND FULL (INSTEAD OF PARTIAL) SWISS SOCIAL SECURITY COVERAGE TO WORKERS WHO LIVE IN ITALY BUT WORK IN SWITZERLAND, AND THAT PENSION PAYMENTS TO RETIRED WORKERS BE SPEEDED UP. GARDNER

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